



AKBAR

A VISIONARY MONARCH

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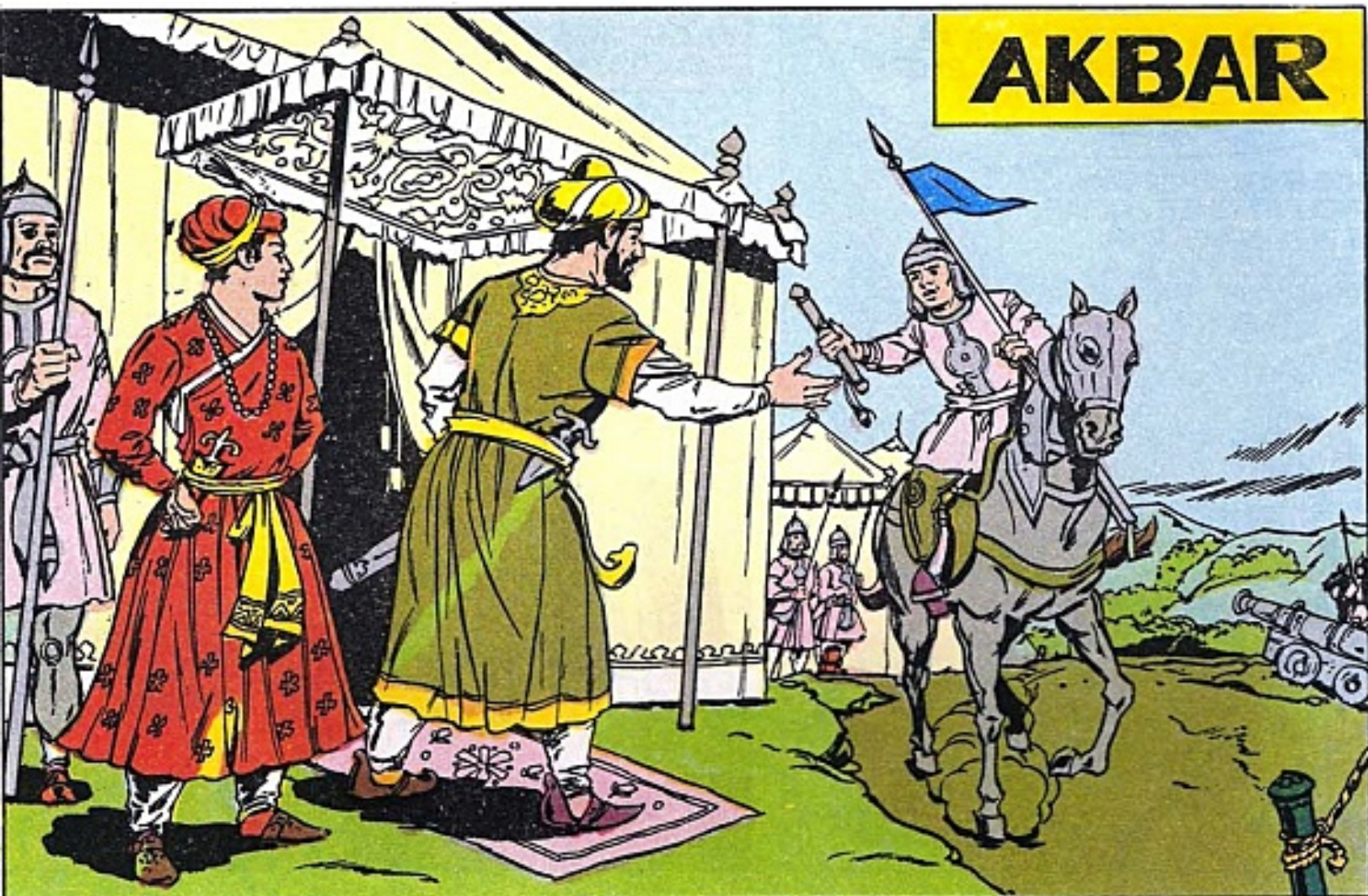
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AKBAR



IN THE YEAR 1556, AKBAR WAS JUST THIRTEEN YEARS OLD. YET HIS MILITARY TRAINING HAD ALREADY BEGUN. HIS FATHER, HUMAYUN, THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, HAD SENT HIM WITH HIS FAITHFUL GENERAL, BAIRAM KHAN, TO FIGHT IN PUNJAB AGAINST THEIR ENEMY, SIKANDAR SHAH.



WHAT IS THE NEWS, BAIRAM? YOU LOOK VERY UPSET.

SAD NEWS, AKBAR...



... YOUR FATHER, THE ILLUSTRIOUS HUMAYUN, HAS LEFT THIS EARTHLY ABODE....

MY FATHER DEAD! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN SO SUDDENLY? HE WAS WELL WHEN WE LEFT HIM!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. HE FELL FROM THE STEEP STONE STEPS OF HIS LIBRARY AND WAS INJURED....

WE SHOULD CROWN YOU AT ONCE, AKBAR, LEST SOME RIVAL SHOULD MAKE A CLAIM ON THE MUGHAL THRONE.



AKBAR WAS HASTILY CROWNED IN AN OPEN FIELD IN KALANAUR IN PUNJAB.

YOU ARE EMPEROR NOW. ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR DUTIES TO YOUR PEOPLE....

THIS I DO SOLEMNLY PROMISE....



BUT AKBAR WAS STILL A CHILD. HE BROODED OVER HIS FATHER'S DEATH, AND THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF KINGSHIP.

MY CHILD, WHY ARE YOU WEEPING? COME, BE BRAVE....

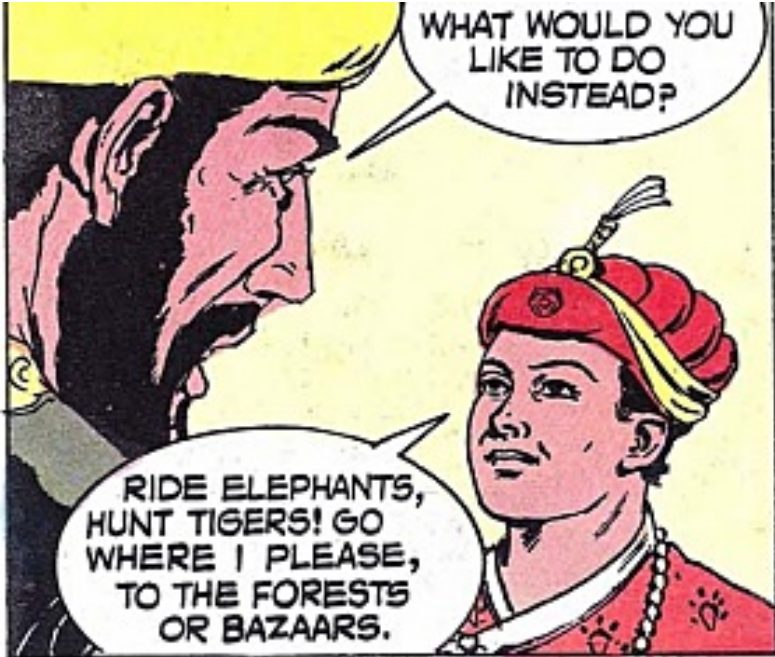
BAIRAM, MY FATHER WENT MANY TIMES INTO EXILE. I HAVE KNOWN MANY SEPARATIONS. BUT NOW HE HAS LEFT ME FOR EVER!



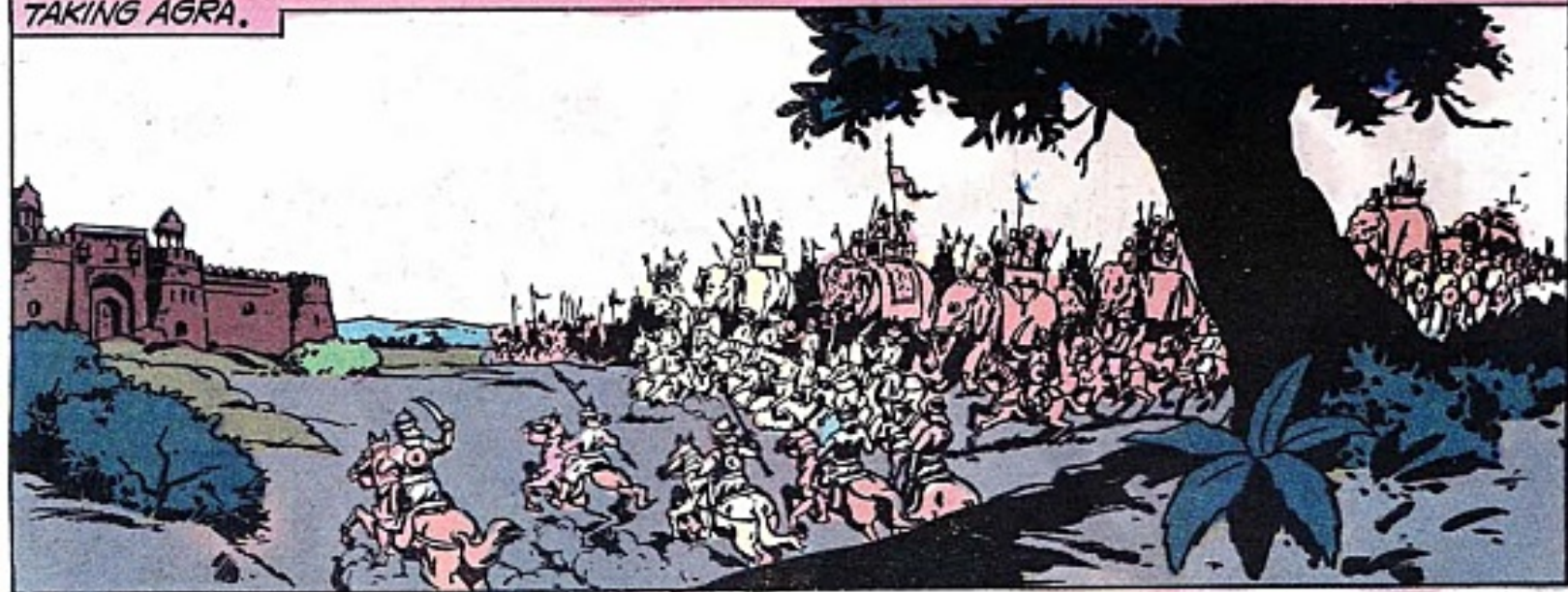
BUT YOU ARE THE RULER NOW, AKBAR. THINK OF THE HONOUR—

HONOUR! YOU FORGET THE WORRIES. I DON'T WANT TO RULE. I WANT TO BE FREE!





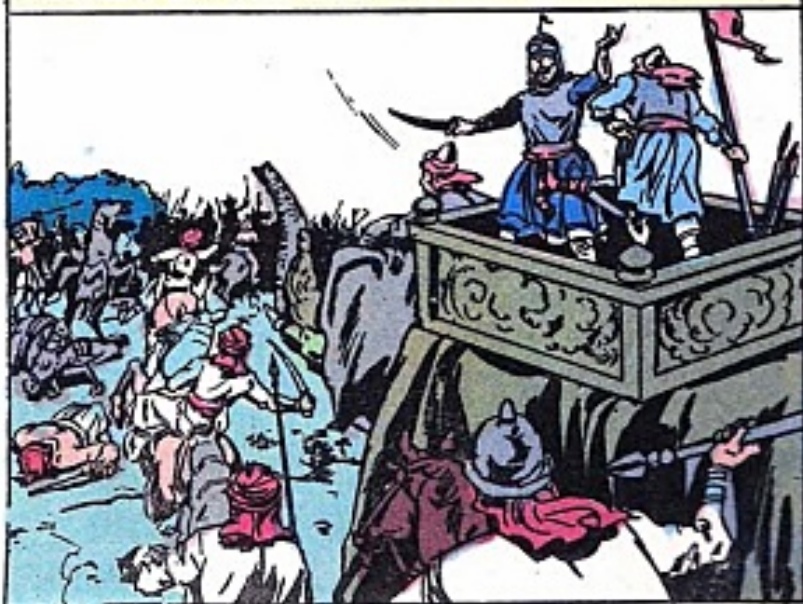
WHILE BAI RAM, WITH AKBAR, WAS DIRECTING THE CAMPAIGN IN PUNJAB, AN ALARMING EVENT WAS TAKING PLACE AT THE CAPITAL. HEMU, THE HINDU GENERAL, HAD MARCHED TO DELHI, AFTER TAKING AGRA.



TARDI BEG, THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR OF DELHI, PUT UP A VALIANT DEFENCE AND ROUTED HEMU'S ADVANCE GUARD.



BUT HEMU MADE A SUDDEN FIERCE ATTACK ON THE MUGHAL CENTRE.



TARDI BEG PANICKED.

WE CANNOT HOLD OUT ANY LONGER. WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE DELHI TO THE ENEMY. BUT AT LEAST LET ME SAVE HUMAYUN'S TREASURE FOR AKBAR.



HE FLED, TAKING THE TREASURE WITH HIM.



DELHI FELL TO THE INVADERS. HEMU ENTERED IN TRIUMPH.



THERE WAS NO RESISTANCE IN THE CAPITAL. HEMU WAS GIVEN A GRAND WELCOME AND A BIG TITLE —



THE NEWS OF TARDI BEG'S IGNOBLE FLIGHT REACHED BAIRAM AND AKBAR AT JULLUNDUR IN PUNJAB.

MY LORD, TARDI BEG HAS FLED FROM DELHI AT HEMU'S APPROACH. HEMU HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF KING!

TARDI BEG IS A COWARD. HE WILL PAY FOR THIS!





LEAVING A MUGHAL DIVISION BEHIND TO DEAL WITH SIKANDAR, AKBAR AND BAI RAM MARCHED IMMEDIATELY TOWARDS DELHI.



ON THE WAY THEY WERE JOINED BY TARDI BEG.



THE ARMIES OF AKBAR AND HEMU MET AT PANIPAT. IT WAS AT PANIPAT THAT BABUR, AKBAR'S GRANDFATHER, HAD WON HIS FIRST GREAT BATTLE IN HINDUSTAN.

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

HEY, THERE,
LOOK SHARP
WITH THAT
CANNON!

HEMU HAD A HUGE CAVALRY OF 50,000, WITH 1500 ELEPHANTS. THE MUGHALS HAD HALF THAT NUMBER OF CAVALRY. IT WAS GOING HARD FOR THE MUGHALS....



HEMU WAS ELATED.

VICTORY
IS IN
SIGHT!



BUT SUDDENLY—

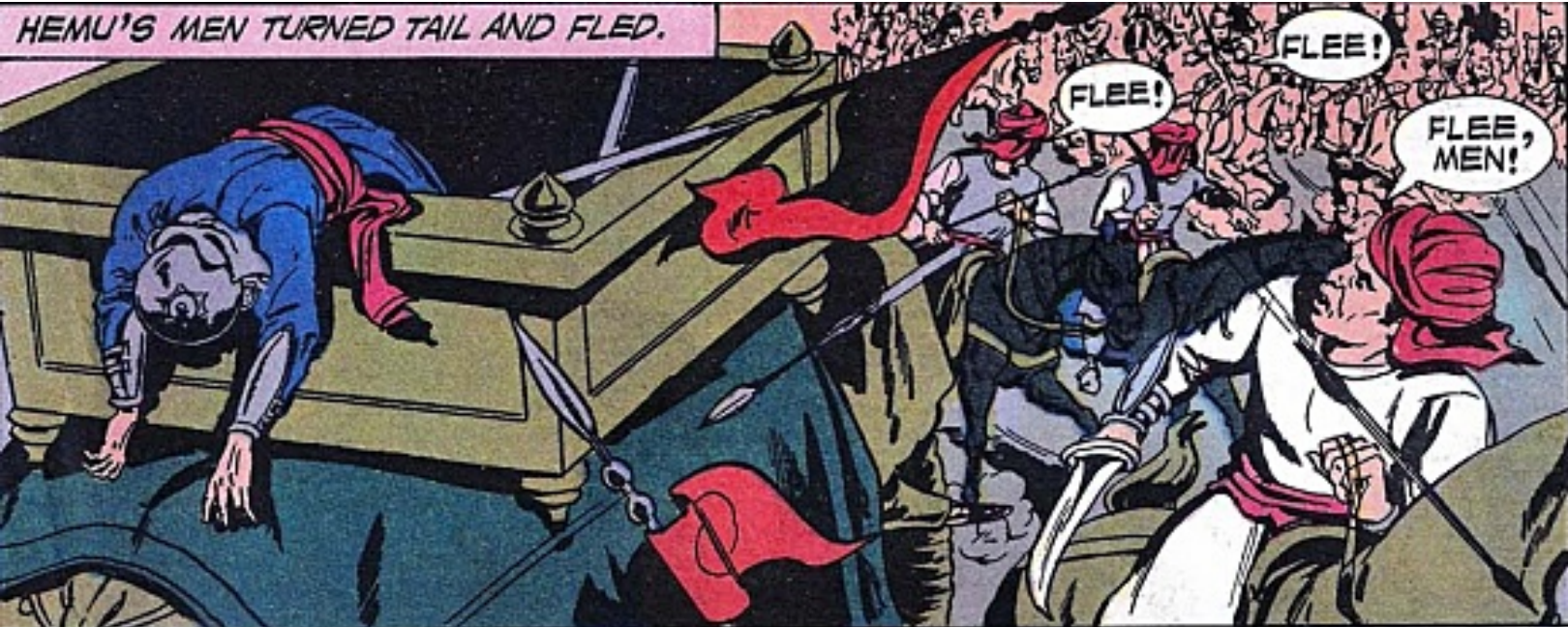
AAH!

HAI! OUR
RAJA HAS
BEEN HIT!

AN ARROW
HAS STRUCK
HIS EYE!



HEMU'S MEN TURNED TAIL AND FLED.



THUS ENDED THE SECOND BATTLE OF PANIPAT WITH VICTORY FOR THE MUGHALS. THIS VICTORY GAVE THEM BOTH POWER AND WEALTH.



I HAVE COUNTED THE ELEPHANTS, MY LORD.

GOOD, SEND THEM UNDER ESCORT TO DELHI...

... WE WILL FOLLOW WITH THE ARMY TOMORROW.



IN DELHI, POOR HEMU'S HEADLESS BODY WAS DISPLAYED ON A GIBBET. THIS WAS THE CRUEL PRACTICE IN THOSE DAYS.



THAT'S HEMU THERE!

BLIND CHANCE RAISED HIM HIGH— THEN SHE BLINDED HIM!

AFTER THE VICTORY, AKBAR AND BAIRAM RETURNED TO PUNJAB TO RESUME THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SIKANDAR SHAH. ON THE WAY THEY MET A MUGHAL COMMANDER FROM PUNJAB.



WE ARE GLAD TO SEE YOU. THINGS ARE BAD HERE. SIKANDAR HAS DRIVEN BACK OUR ARMY TO LAHORE AND...

... WORSE STILL, HE HAS BEGUN TO COLLECT TAXES.



WE MUST VANQUISH SIKANDAR ONCE AND FOR ALL. AGREED, AKBAR?

AGREED!

MEANWHILE, THE LADIES OF AKBAR'S HAREM, WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO KABUL FOR SAFETY, HEARD THE NEWS OF THE VICTORY AT PANIPAT. AMONG THEM WAS AKBAR'S MOTHER, HAMIDA, AND HIS AUNT.



AT LAST! WE CAN RETURN TO HINDUSTAN! HAMIDA, I AM HAPPY!

WHAT A PLEASURE IT WILL BE TO SEE MY DEAR BOY, AKBAR!

THE MUGHAL LADIES JOURNEYED BACK TO DELHI. AKBAR LEFT HIS DIVISION IN PUNJAB AND RODE A DAY'S JOURNEY TO MEET THEM.



MY SON, YOU HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RETURN!

YOU ARE COURAGEOUS AND BRAVE!

MOTHER, IT WAS POSSIBLE ONLY WITH BAIRAM'S HELP. I OWE HIM A GREAT DEAL.

AKBAR RETURNED TO THE CAMPAIGN. THE MUGHAL ARMY NOW HAD THE UPPER HAND AND SIKANDAR HAD RETREATED INTO THE FORT AT MANKOT.



UNDER BAIRAM'S ABLE GUIDANCE, THE MUGHALS LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT AT MANKOT, BUT SIKANDAR HELD OUT FOR SIX LONG MONTHS.



SIKANDAR CANNOT HOPE TO WIN. WHY DOESN'T HE GIVE IN?

HE KNOWS WE ARE BEING TROUBLED BY THE AFGHANS LED BY ADIL SHAH.

SO HE IS HOPING SOME OF OUR DIVISIONS WILL BE CALLED TO OTHER AREAS?

EXACTLY! YOU ARE LEARNING FAST, AKBAR!



BUT SOON AFTER, THERE WAS GOOD NEWS FROM BENGAL —

ADIL SHAH HAS BEEN KILLED! THAT WAS THE AFGHAN UPSTART WHO SAID HE HAD A CLAIM ON DELHI!



SOME TIME LATER — SIKANDAR HAS AGREED TO A TRUCE. IN RETURN, WE WILL SPARE HIS LIFE AND GIVE HIM A GRANT OF LAND.



WE OWE THIS SUCCESS TO YOU, BAIRAM.

YOU WERE BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR, AKBAR. THREE ENEMIES REMOVED IN LESS THAN EIGHTEEN MONTHS!

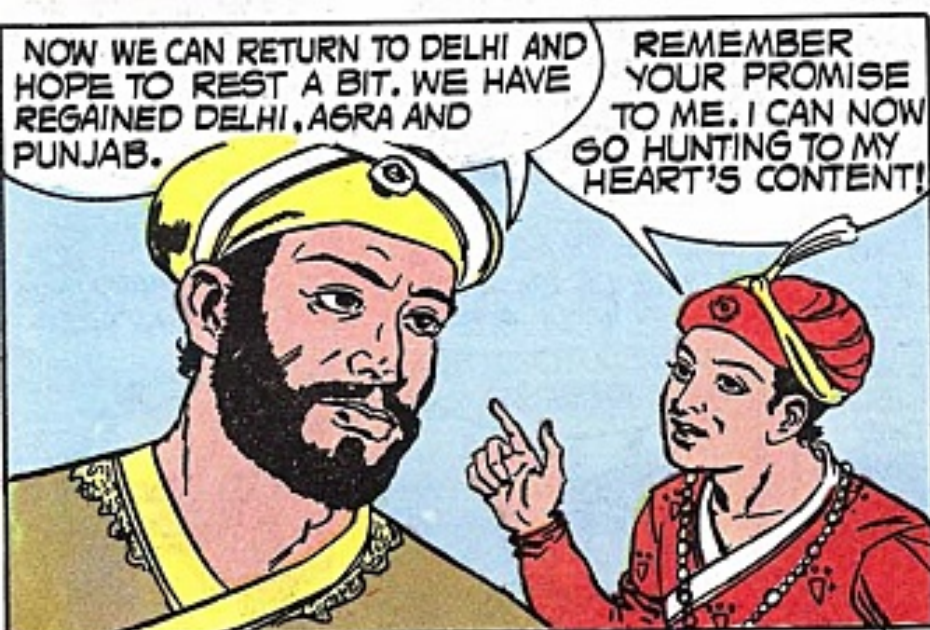


MY GRANDFATHER, BABUR, HAD THE SAME SORT OF LUCK. THEY SAY HE HAD ONLY TO APPEAR IN A BATTLE FOR HIS ENEMIES TO BE VANQUISHED!



NOW WE CAN RETURN TO DELHI AND HOPE TO REST A BIT. WE HAVE REGAINED DELHI, AGRA AND PUNJAB.

REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO ME. I CAN NOW GO HUNTING TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!



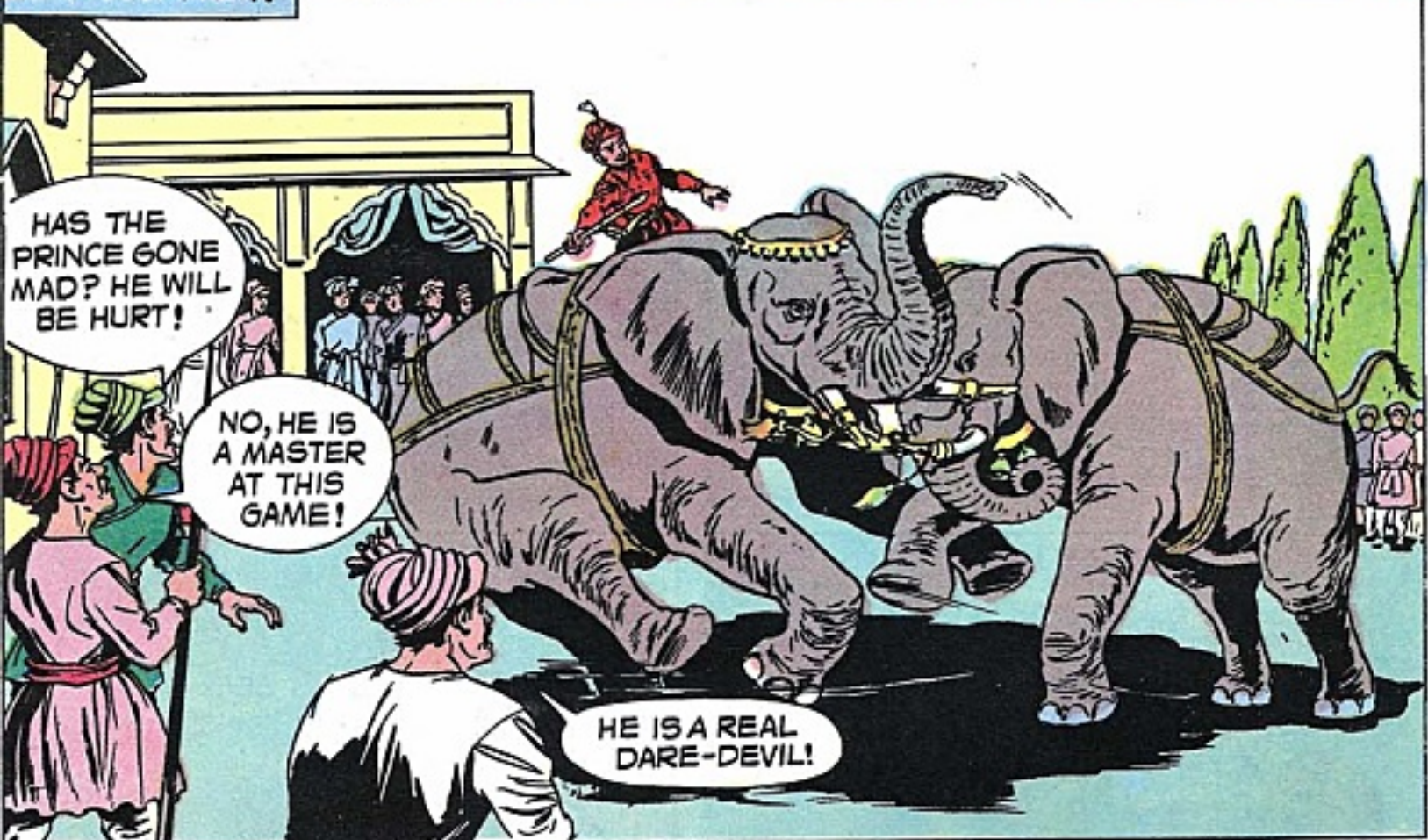
AS FOR YOU, BAIRAM, I APPOINT YOU PRIME MINISTER IN TOKEN OF MY RESPECT. TRY YOUR HAND AT CIVILIAN PROJECTS INSTEAD OF MILITARY ONES NOW!



LEAVING THE HEAVY CARES OF STATE TO BAIRAM, AKBAR NOW LED A PLEASURE-FILLED LIFE. HE WAS SPECIALLY FOND OF HUNTING WITH CHEETAHS, A VERY BLOODTHIRSTY SPORT.



HE TOOK GREAT PLEASURE IN THE DANGEROUS GAME OF RIDING ON ELEPHANTS DURING AN ELEPHANT FIGHT.



BAIRAM WAS EFFICIENT. IN FOUR YEARS HE HAD SUBDUED ALL MAJOR ENEMIES. BUT HIS SUCCESS HAD MADE HIM ARROGANT, EVEN TOWARDS THE EMPEROR. HE BEGAN TO DISREGARD AKBAR'S ORDERS AND DID NOT CONSULT HIM ON STATE AFFAIRS. ONE DAY—

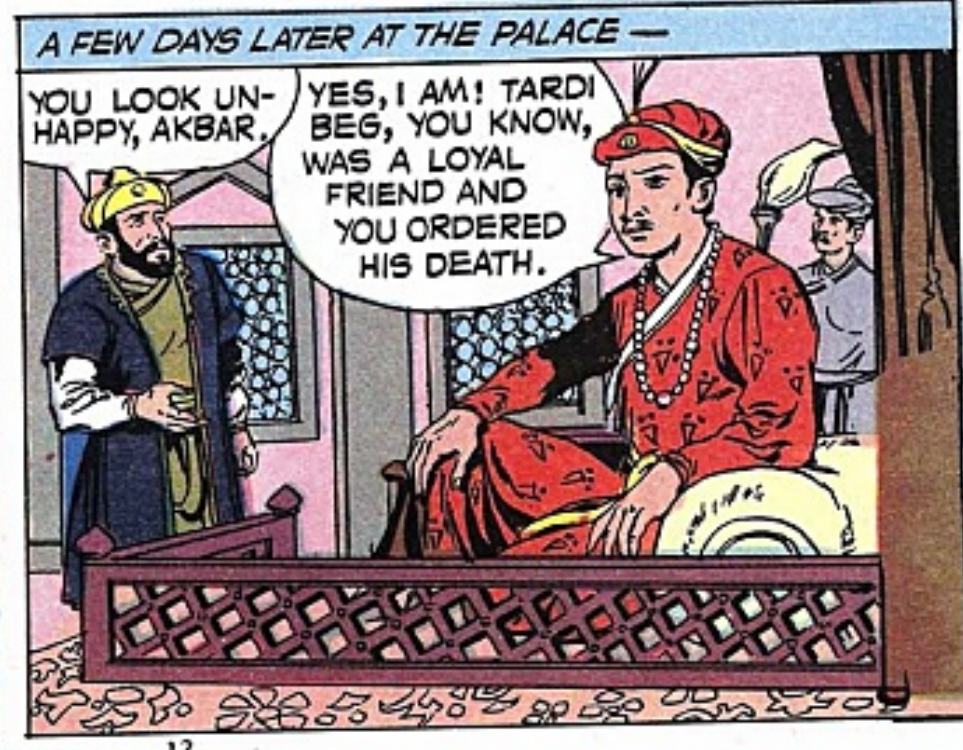
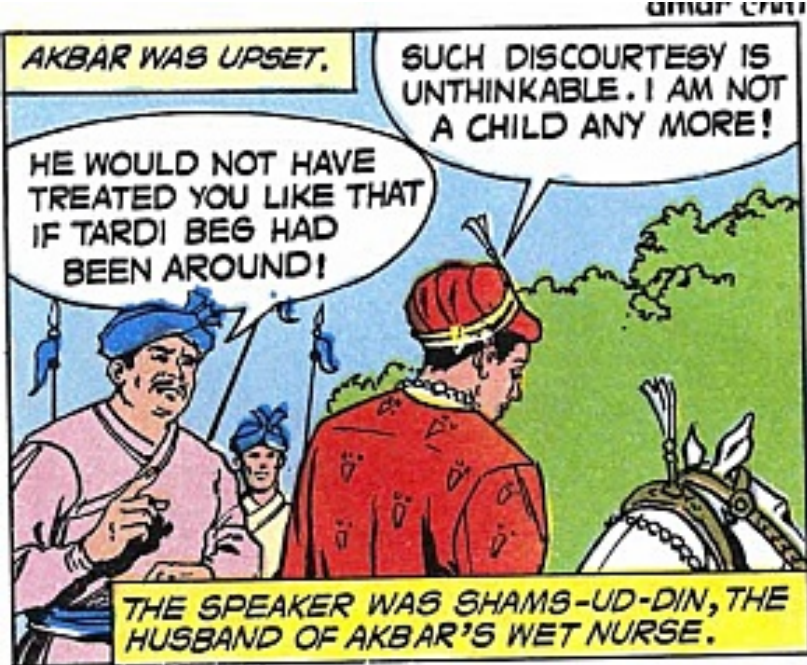
BAIRAM IS UNWELL, I MUST VISIT HIM. SEND A MESSENGER TO TELL HIM I AM COMING.



BUT THE MESSENGER RETURNED SOON—

MY LORD, BAIRAM DOES NOT WANT TO SEE YOU NOW. HE SAYS HE IS TOO UNWELL TO RECEIVE VISITORS.







BUT AKBAR WAS FAST GROWING UP AND WANTED TO WIELD MORE AUTHORITY. BECAUSE OF BAIRAM'S ARROGANCE, THERE WAS ALSO A FEELING OF DISCONTENT IN THE COURT. A FEW YEARS LATER—

WHY SHOULD WE LET BAIRAM LORD IT OVER US LIKE THIS?

WE SHOULD SPEAK TO AKBAR ABOUT HIM.



MAHAM ANGHA SPOKE UP BEFORE THE REST. SHE HAD BEEN AKBAR'S NURSE AND WAS MUCH RESPECTED IN COURT.

AKBAR, MY CHILD, YOU KNOW EVERYONE IS SAYING THAT BAIRAM IS BECOMING A GRAND PASHA. HE SPENDS MORE MONEY THAN YOU DO—AND HE'S SO OVERBEARING!

I, TOO, HAVE KNOWN IT FOR SOME TIME. BUT I OWE BAIRAM SO MUCH, I CAN'T CHIDE HIM.



DON'T CHIDE HIM, MY DEAR. JUST SEND HIM AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. YOU'LL BE DOING HIS SOUL SOME GOOD!

YES, THAT'S AN HONOURABLE WAY TO GET RID OF HIM....



MAHAM HAD HER OWN REASONS FOR WISHING TO GET RID OF BAIRAM. SHE HAD A SON, ADHAM KHAN, FOR WHOM SHE HAD AMBITIONS.

OH! HERE IS ADHAM. NOW, HE'S A MAN YOU CAN RELY ON TO CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES.



BAIRAM KHAN WAS SENT AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE. AKBAR BEGAN TO RELY HEAVILY ON MAHAM AND ADHAM KHAN.



LATER ADHAM DISCUSSED IT WITH HIS MOTHER.



AS WAS EXPECTED, THE BATTLE WAS A BRIEF ONE WHICH THE MUGHALS WON. ADHAM KHAN TREATED THE VICTIMS CRUELLY. HE MASSACRED INNOCENT CITIZENS, BOTH HINDUS AND MUSLIMS.

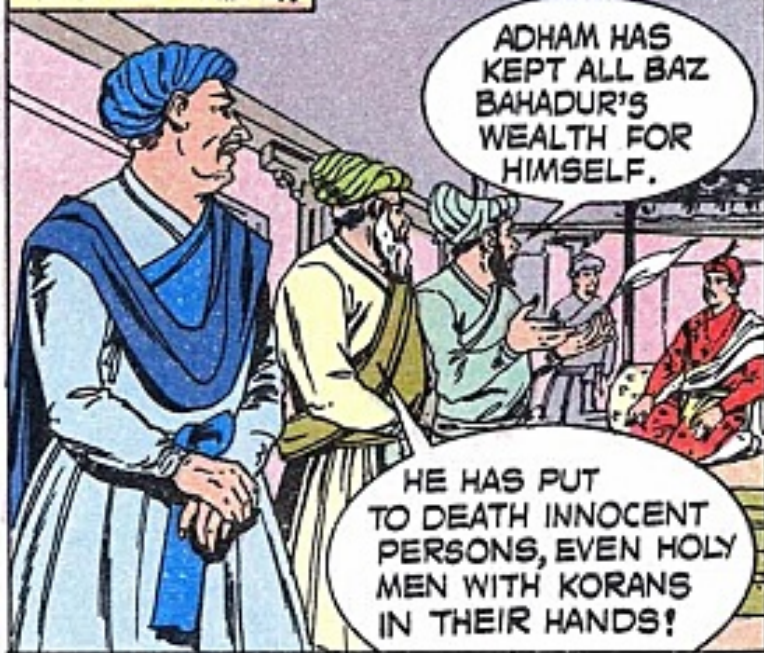


BAZ BAHADUR FLED, LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND. ADHAM BEGAN TO LIVE IN HIS PALACE AS IF HE WERE THE KING.



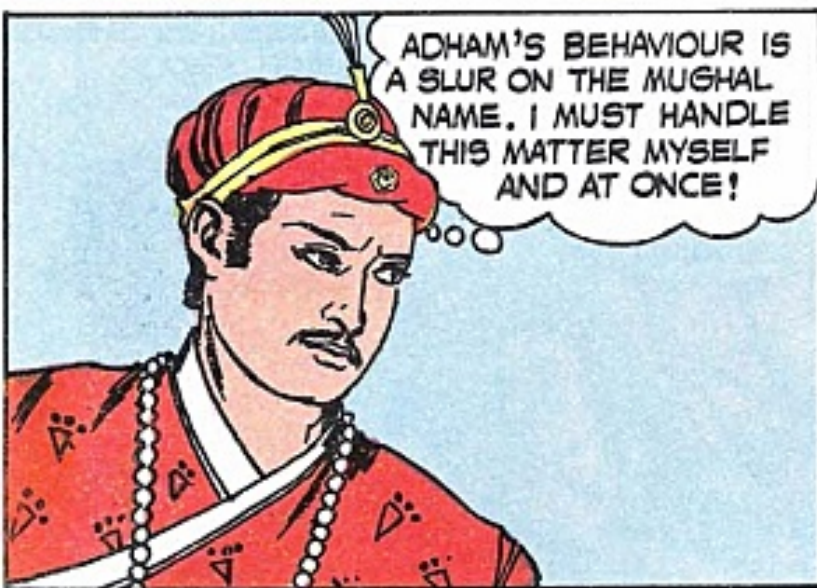
AH! JEWELS WORTHY OF A BRAVE LIKE ME!

SOON THE NEWS OF ADHAM'S ACTIVITIES REACHED AKBAR.



ADHAM HAS KEPT ALL BAZ BAHADUR'S WEALTH FOR HIMSELF.

HE HAS PUT TO DEATH INNOCENT PERSONS, EVEN HOLY MEN WITH KORANS IN THEIR HANDS!



ADHAM'S BEHAVIOUR IS A SLUR ON THE MUGHAL NAME. I MUST HANDLE THIS MATTER MYSELF AND AT ONCE!



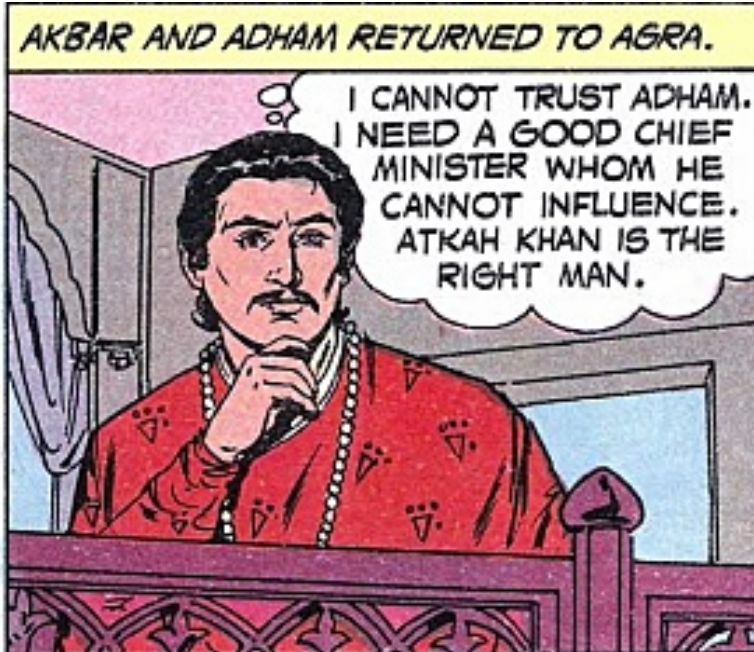
QUICK, HAND ME MY ARMOUR. ASK MY MEN TO PREPARE TO LEAVE AT ONCE!

WHEN AKBAR ARRIVED WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN AT ADHAM'S CAMP—



YOU, AKBAR? I HAVE WON THE BATTLE ALREADY! SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

YOUR SHAMELESS BEHAVIOUR! HAVE YOU NO SENSE OF DECENCY?



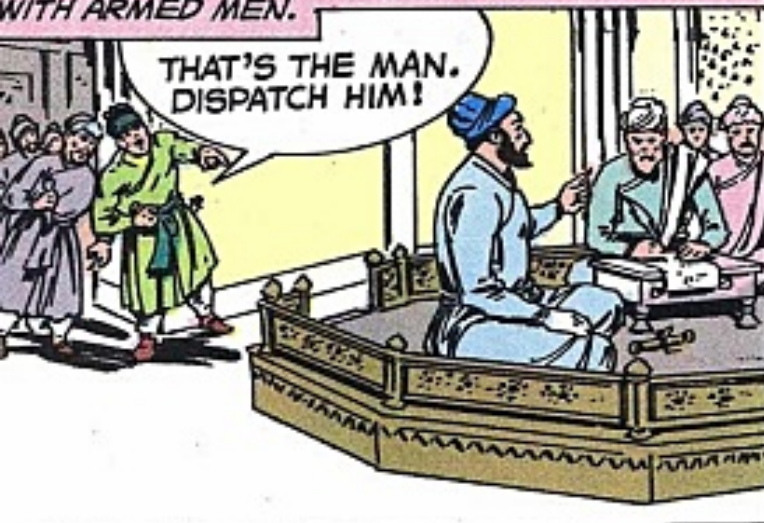
SO ATKAH KHAN WAS GIVEN THE POST OF CHIEF MINISTER.



MAHAM AND ADHAM TOOK THE APPOINTMENT OF ATKAH KHAN AS A PERSONAL AFFRONT.



ONE DAY ATKAH KHAN WAS BUSY WITH STATE AFFAIRS IN A PUBLIC HALL IN THE PALACE, WHEN ADHAM KHAN SUDDENLY APPEARED WITH ARMED MEN.



JUST THEN AKBAR APPEARED AT THE DOORWAY.



THE GUARDS LIFTED THE UNCONSCIOUS ADHAM AND THREW HIM OVER THE PARAPET.



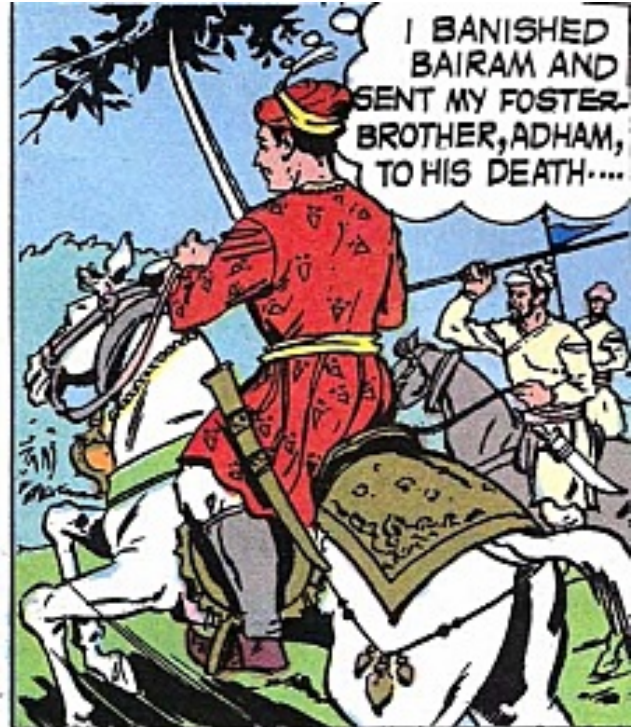
ADHAM DID NOT DIE THE FIRST TIME. HE HAD TO BE DRAGGED UP AND THROWN DOWN A SECOND TIME.

THIS EPISODE LEFT AN UNPLEASANT IMPRESSION ON AKBAR. ONE DAY WHILE HE WAS OUT HUNTING, HE PONDERED OVER THE PAST.

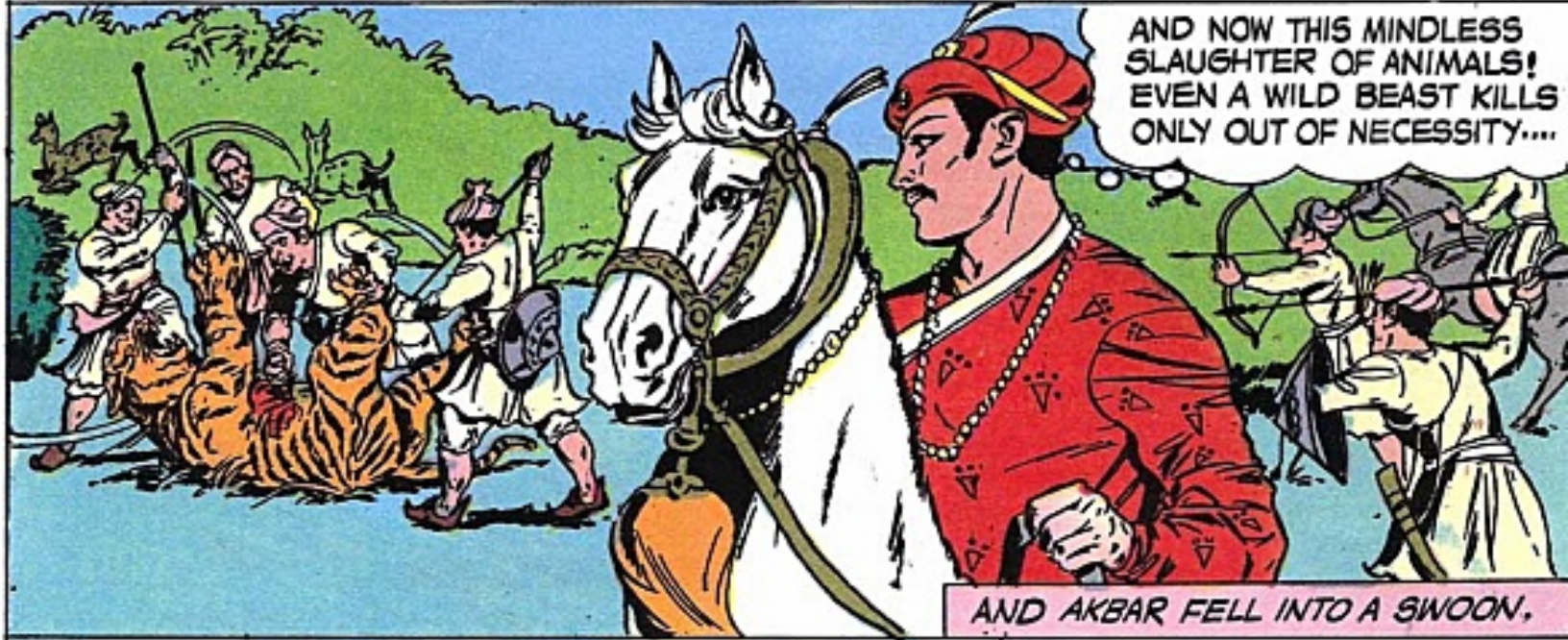
IS IT POSSIBLE TO RULE AND YET AVOID BEING RUTHLESS?



I BANISHED BAIRAM AND SENT MY FOSTER BROTHER, ADHAM, TO HIS DEATH...



AND NOW THIS MINDLESS SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS! EVEN A WILD BEAST KILLS ONLY OUT OF NECESSITY...



AND AKBAR FELL INTO A SWOON.

BUT AKBAR CONTINUED HIS HUNTING EXPEDITIONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

JAHANPANA, TROUBLE IS BREWING IN THE EAST...



MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A HUNTING EXPEDITION IN THE NEIGHBOURING FOREST.

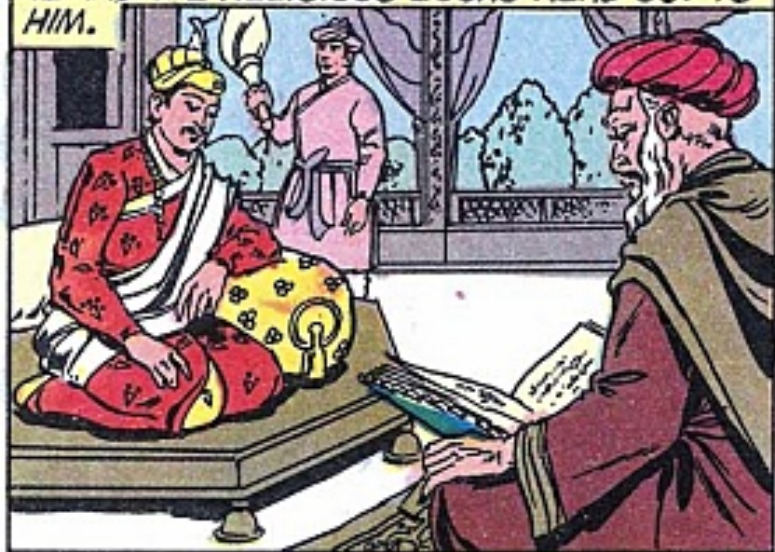
AKBAR'S VERY PRESENCE ON THE SCENE OF REBELLION HAD, AS USUAL, THE DESIRED EFFECT.

NO SIGN OF ANY TROUBLE-MAKERS HERE!

NO, THEY FLED ON YOUR ARRIVAL!



AKBAR BECAME DEEPLY INTERESTED IN RELIGION. HE WAS NOT LITERATE, SO HE HAD THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS READ OUT TO HIM.



IN MID-JANUARY 1562, AKBAR WAS ON HIS ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF THE FAMOUS SAINT OF AJMER, KHWAJA MU'IN-UD-DIN CHISHTI—



ON THE WAY, THE PARTY WAS MET BY RAJA BIHARI MAL, THE RAJPUT KING OF AMBER, WHO, WITH HIS SON, BHAGWANDAS, HAD COME TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE EMPEROR.



APART FROM THESE GIFTS, MY LORD, I WOULD BE HONoured IF YOU WOULD ACCEPT MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION—THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE

THE HONOUR IS ALL MINE, RAJA. IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO ACCEPT THE DAUGHTER OF SO ILLUSTRIOUS A KING.

ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY FROM AJMER, AKBAR'S MARRIAGE TO THE RAJPUT PRINCESS WAS CELEBRATED AT SAMBHAR.

THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR US! AKBAR IS NOW ONE OF US!

IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER IF THE PRINCESS BEARS HIM AN HEIR!



THOUGH ONE REASON FOR THIS ALLIANCE WAS TO GAIN HINDU SUPPORT, IT WAS ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF THE DOCTRINE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, WHICH AKBAR INCREASINGLY PRACTISED.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RAJPUTS, BHAGWANDAS AND MAN SINGH, WAS IN LINE WITH HIS SECULAR BELIEFS. MAN SINGH, THE GRANDSON OF THE RAJA OF AMBER, BECAME A CLOSE ASSOCIATE—

MY LORD, YOUR HINDU SUBJECTS ARE PRAISING YOU FOR ABOLISHING THE HATEFUL JIZYA* TAX.

I AM GLAD MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. THEIR LOYALTY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THEIR FAITHS, MAN SINGH.



I WISH SOME OF YOUR MULLAS WOULD SEE IT THAT WAY TOO!

WHAT'S TO BE DONE ZEALOTS THINK THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH TO HEAVEN.



AKBAR EVEN ALLOWED HIS HINDU WIFE TO CELEBRATE HER FESTIVALS IN COURT AND JOINED IN THEM HIMSELF.

MUBARAK!

MUBARAK, RANI! HOW DOES THIS TURBAN SUIT ME?



THE ORTHODOX MULLAS HATED THE ENLIGHTENED POLICIES OF THEIR RULER

AKBAR HAS GIVEN UP THE TRUE RELIGION!

HE TAKES THE ADVICE OF INFIDELS!



.... THOUGH SOME OF THEM UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR HIS ACTIONS.

THIS YEAR HE HAS REFUSED TO SEND MONEY TO THE POOR IN MECCA. WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF US THERE!

BUT WHY SHOULD HE SEND MONEY THERE? HE GIVES TO THE POOR IN HINDUSTAN!



WHERE IS THE NEED TO BREAK OUR TIME-HONOURED CUSTOMS?

HE WANTS TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN REFORMS....

REFORMS? WE DON'T WANT REFORMS! WHATEVER RULES WERE WRITTEN IN THE OLD DAYS—THOSE ARE SUFFICIENT FOR US!



BUT AKBAR WENT AHEAD WITH HIS LIBERAL POLICIES. SOME OF THESE AFFECTED ORTHODOX HINDUS AS WELL, SUCH AS THE ABOLITION OF SATI AND CHILD MARRIAGE.

I WOULD HAVE ARRANGED MY SON'S MARRIAGE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER. BUT AKBAR HAS DECREED AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGES!

IT REALLY IS TOO BAD THE WAY HE INTERFERES WITH OUR AGE-OLD CUSTOMS!

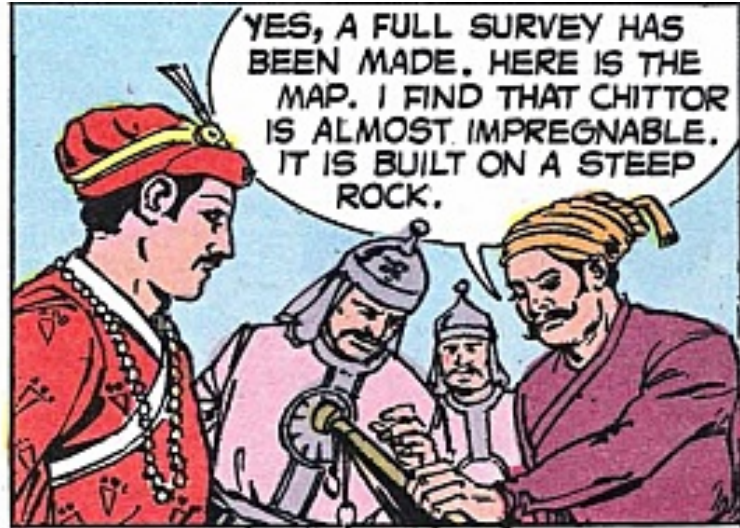


MOST OF THE RAJPUT PRINCES HAD BY NOW ACCEPTED AKBAR'S SUZERAINTY, BUT THE PROUD RANA OF MEWAR REFUSED TO FALL UNDER HIS SWAY. AKBAR DECIDED TO ATTACK HIM.

THE RANA'S CAPITAL FORT WILL BE OUR NEXT TARGET. HAS THE SURVEY I ORDERED OF THE AREA BEEN MADE?

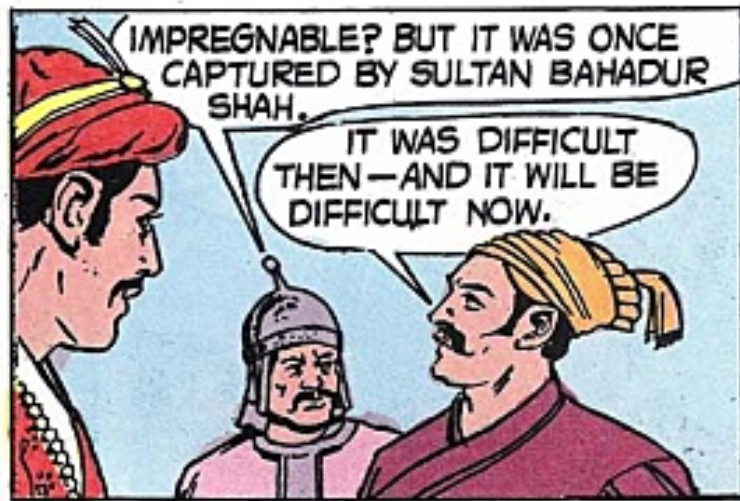


YES, A FULL SURVEY HAS BEEN MADE. HERE IS THE MAP. I FIND THAT CHITTOR IS ALMOST IMPREGNABLE. IT IS BUILT ON A STEEP ROCK.



IMPREGNABLE? BUT IT WAS ONCE CAPTURED BY SULTAN BAHADUR SHAH.

IT WAS DIFFICULT THEN—AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT NOW.



AKBAR MADE FULL PREPARATIONS, AND STARTED OUT WITH HIS ARMY. ON THE WAY—

THE RANA OF MEWAR HAS RETIRED WITH HIS FAMILY TO UDAIPUR!

WHAT! HE FLEES FROM CHITTOR BEFORE WE ARRIVE!



BUT HE HAS LEFT GENERAL JAIMAL IN CHARGE OF CHITTOR WITH EIGHT THOUSAND RAJPUTS.

SO HE LEAVES THEM TO DIE?





NO, MY LORD, THE
FORT IS STRONG
AND WELL-
STOCKED
WITH
FOOD.

BUT THE
COUNTRY AROUND
HAS BEEN LAID
WASTE SO THAT
YOU WILL HAVE
PROBLEMS
GETTING
SUPPLIES OF
FOOD.



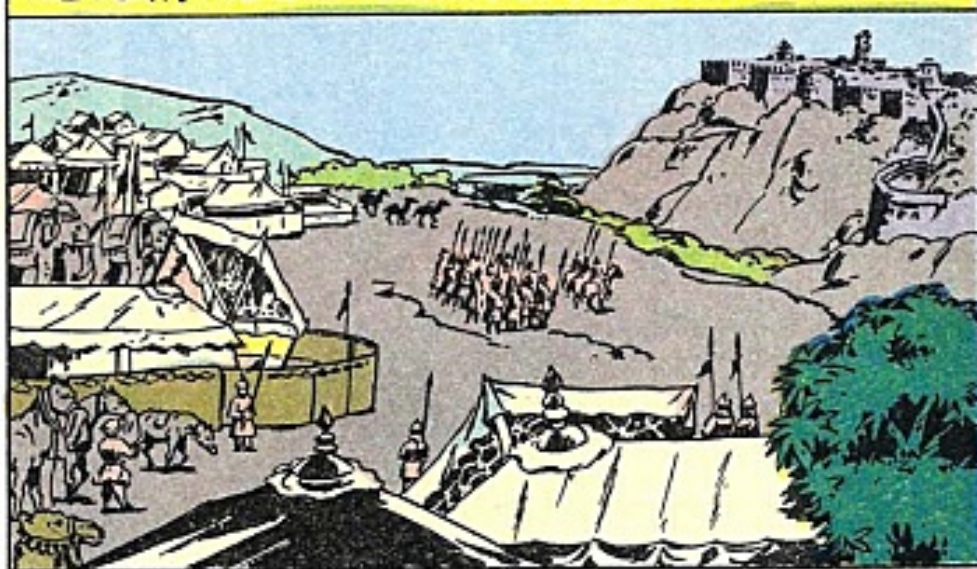
WE ARE WELL PROVIDED.
YOU MAY GO. YOUR REPORT
IS AS COMPLETE AS IT
COULD BE.

THANK
YOU, MY
LORD.



SO WE KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT.
AND WE ARE
PREPARED.
TOMORROW WE
MOVE!

AKBAR MARCHED TO CHITTOR AND ENCAMPED BELOW
THE FORT. HIS CAMP EXTENDED FOR OVER TEN MILES.



WE WILL BLAST THE WALL
OF THE FORT. START
DIGGING THE
TUNNELS.

TWO TUNNELS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER
LEADING TO THE FORT WERE BURROWED.
IT TOOK ONE MONTH TO DO THIS.



BUT AT LAST THE WORK WAS COMPLETED.



MY LORD, THE
TUNNELS ARE
READY.

WELL
DONE!

WE ARE PRE-
PARING TO LIGHT
THE FUSES.

THEY MUST EXPLODE
AT THE SAME TIME.
SEE TO THAT.

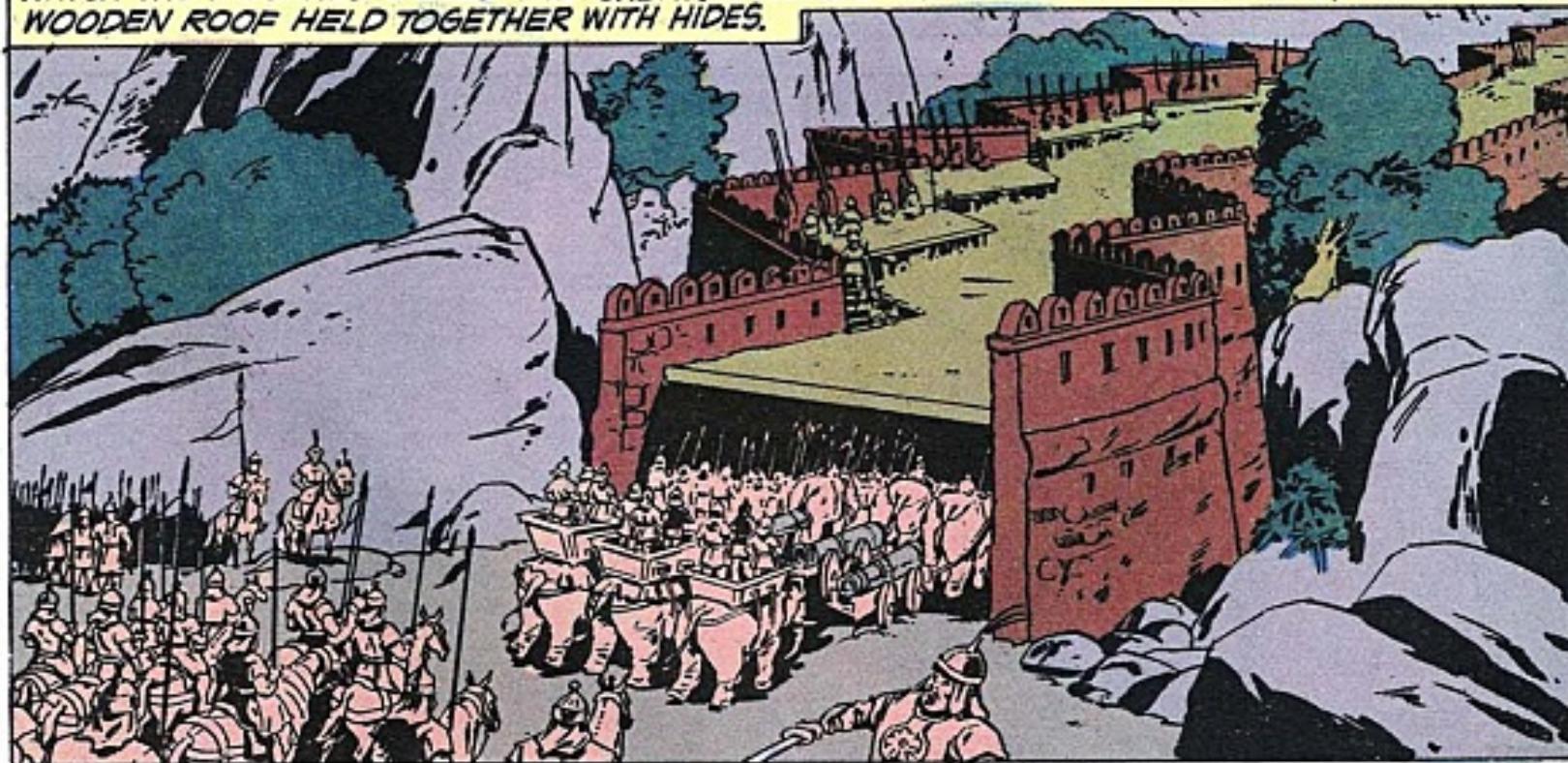


ALL RIGHT,
READY!





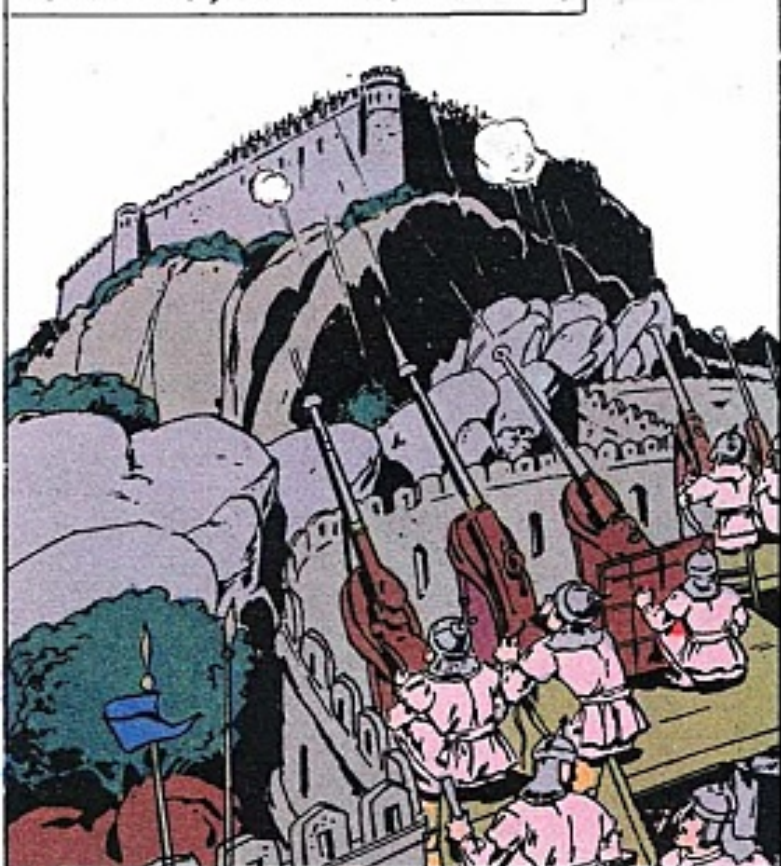
THE MASONS AND OTHER LABOURERS SET TO WORK TO BUILD THE TEMPORARY STRUCTURE WHICH THE MUGHALS CALLED THE 'SABAT.' IT CONSISTED OF SINUOUS MUD WALLS, WITH A WOODEN ROOF HELD TOGETHER WITH HIDES.



THE SABAT WAS A STEADILY GROWING FORTIFICATION. AS ITS WALLS INCHED FORWARD, THE MUGHAL GUNS, CANNONS AND MEN, COULD ADVANCE UNDER PROTECTION. BUT IT WAS DANGEROUS FOR THE WORKERS IN THE FORWARD AREA. HUNDREDS OF THEM DIED EVERY DAY, VICTIMS OF ARROWS FROM THE CHITTOR FORT.



AS THEY MOVED FORWARD TO THE FOOT OF FORTRESS, THE GUNS SNIPED.



BOTH SIDES FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY. BUT AS HE DREW NEARER THE FORT, AKBAR WAS IN A STRONGER POSITION.



FINALLY, THINGS WERE SO BAD FOR THE ENEMY THAT THE COMMANDER, JAIMAL, HIMSELF CAME TO THE BREACH TO DEFEND IT.



ALL WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE. THEN FIRES COULD BE SEEN BURNING AT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FORT.



* THE PRACTICE OF WOMEN IMMOLATING THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BE TAKEN AS CAPTIVES 28



CHITTOR WAS CAPTURED, BUT THE RANA, UDAI SINGH, REFUSED TO SUBMIT. OTHER PRINCES, HOWEVER, PREFERRED TO MAKE PEACE WITH AKBAR.



THE MUGHAL COURT HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT SEAT OF CULTURE. AKBAR ENCOURAGED MUSIC. BAZ BAHADUR* AND TANSEN MADE THEIR MARK AT THE MUGHAL COURT.

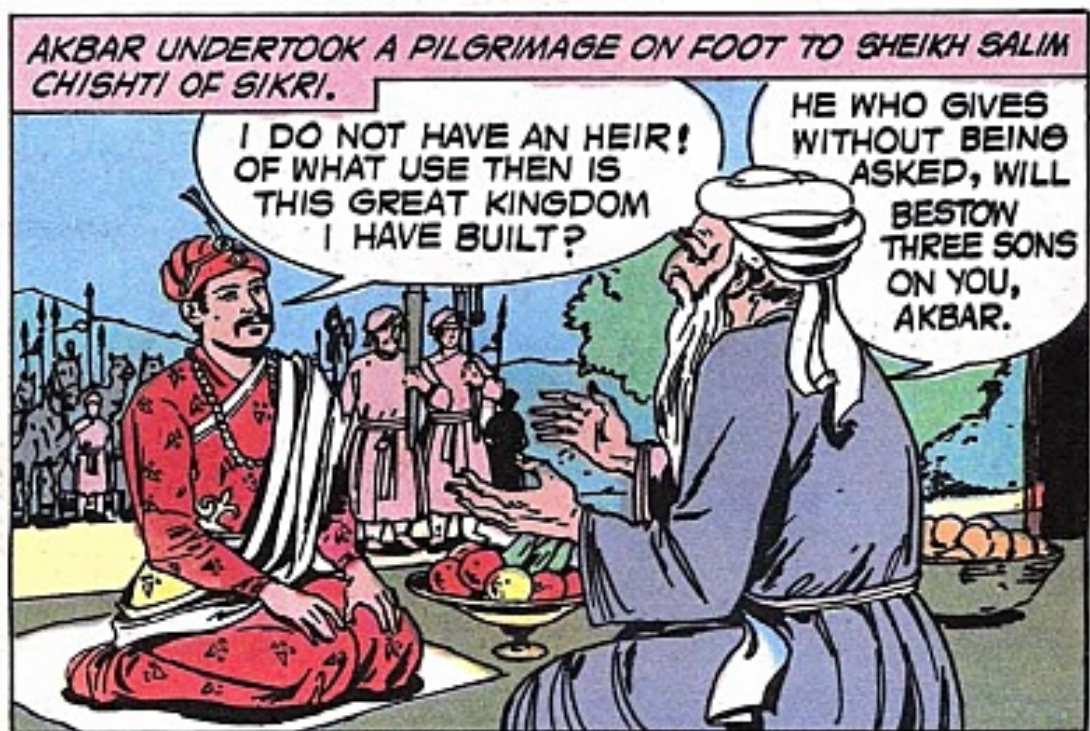


AKBAR HAD A WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS. PERSIAN AND INDIAN ARTISTS PAINTED MINIATURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.



*NED AKBAR'S COURT SOME YEARS AFTER HIS DEFEAT AT MALWA

HAVING ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM ON A FIRM FOUNDATION, AKBAR COULD NOW ENJOY THE LUXURIES OF COURT LIFE. BUT A SECRET SADNESS TROUBLED HIM.



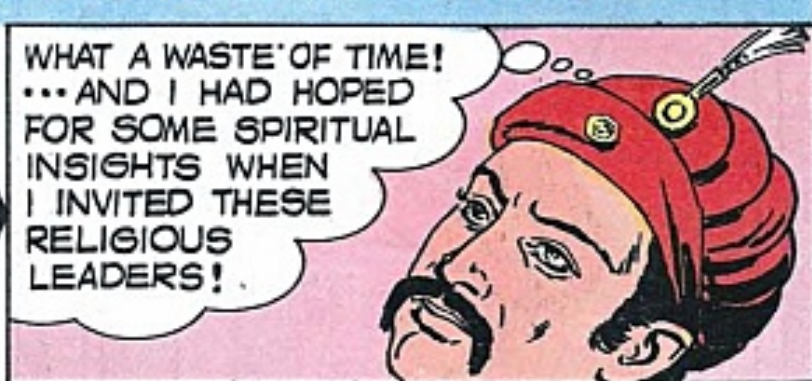
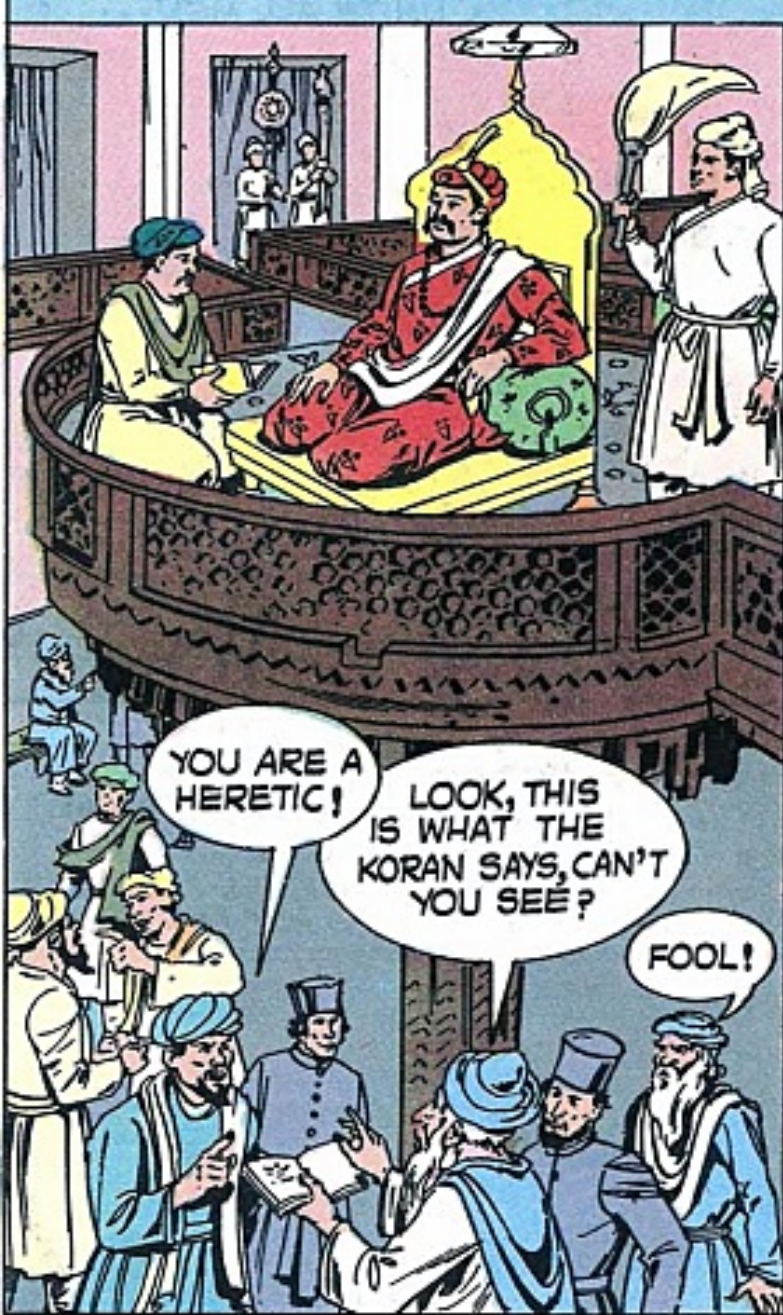
THE HOLY MAN'S PROPHECY CAME TRUE THE VERY NEXT YEAR. THE RAJPUT PRINCESS OF AMBER GAVE BIRTH TO A SON. HE WAS NAMED SALIM.*



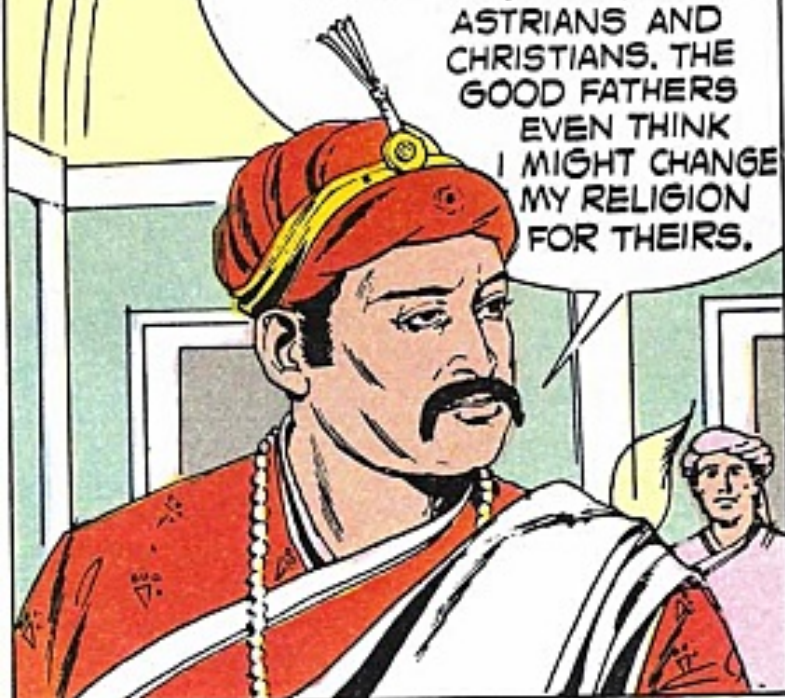
TWO MORE SONS, MURAD AND DANIYAL, WERE BORN WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

* LATER KNOWN AS THE EMPEROR JAHANGIR

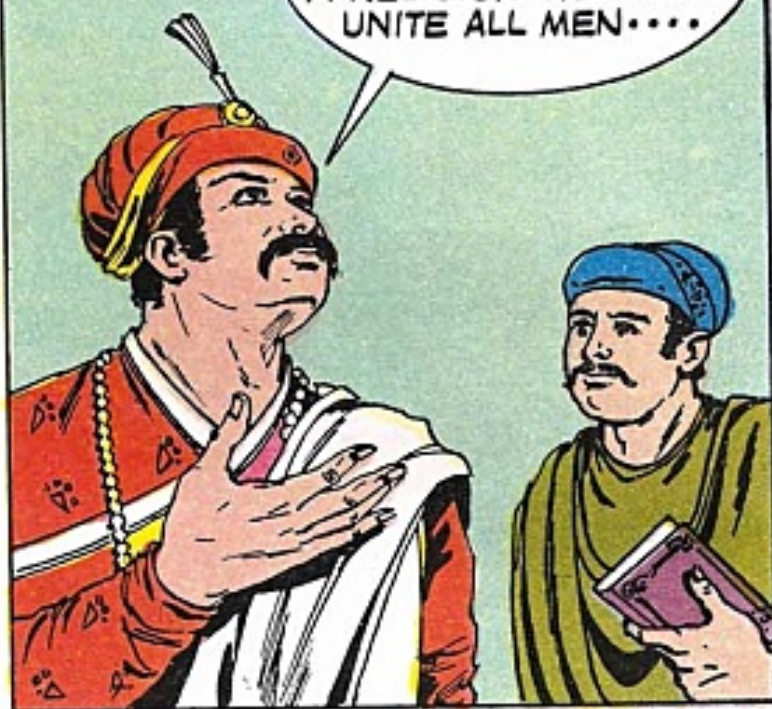
WITH THE SUCCESSION ENSURED, AKBAR TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE. HE UNDERTOOK MANY REFORMS AND CONSOLIDATED THE EMPIRE. HE INVITED PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN HIS PALACE.



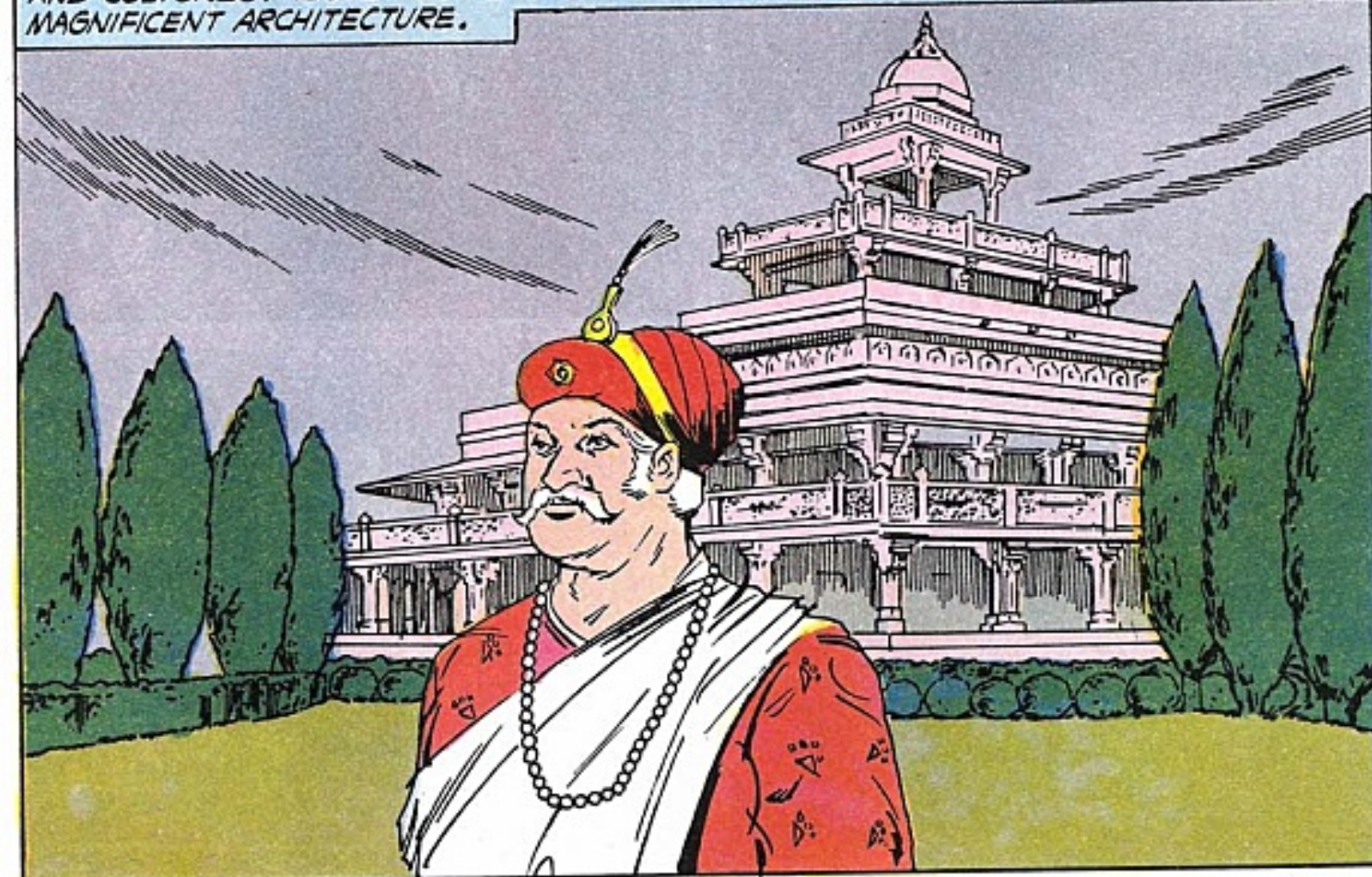
THIS IS TRUE ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS I HAVE TALKED TO — THE HINDUS, JEWS, ZOROASTRIANS AND CHRISTIANS. THE GOOD FATHERS EVEN THINK I MIGHT CHANGE MY RELIGION FOR THEIRS.



BUT I AM LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE, ABUL — A RELIGION THAT WILL UNITE ALL MEN....



AKBAR'S QUEST FOR A UNIVERSAL RELIGION FOUND EXPRESSION IN DIN-I-ILAH. DURING HIS LONG REIGN, HE TRIED TO PUT HIS IDEALS INTO PRACTICE AND CHANGE THE WORLD INTO A MORE HUMANE PLACE. WHEN HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 63, HE BEQUEATHED TO THE FUTURE HIS IDEAL OF A UNIFIED COUNTRY OF DIVERSE RELIGIONS AND CULTURES. ABOVE ALL HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS LOVE OF THE ARTS AND FOR HIS MAGNIFICENT ARCHITECTURE.



WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
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DRAUPADI
DRONA
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GANGA
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GOLDEN MONGOOSE, THE
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HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
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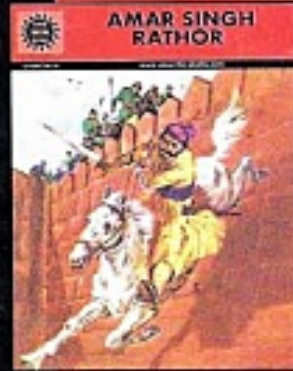
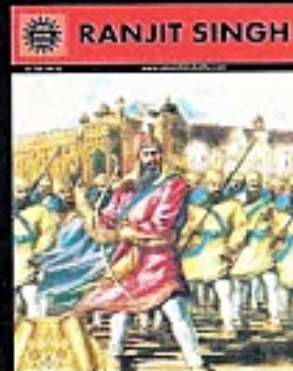


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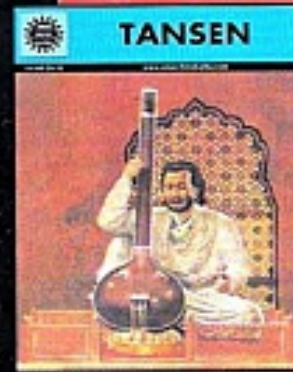
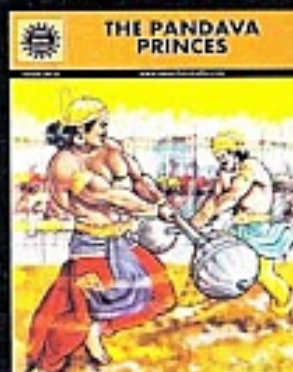
AKBAR

He was a child, who only wanted to ride elephants and hunt tigers. Crowned emperor of Hindustan at the age of 13, he was mature enough to choose his friends carefully. Enemies and dangerous courtiers, on the other hand, were dispatched mercilessly. For his courage and generosity, his love of the arts and universal justice, history gave Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar an enduring label - 'Akbar the Great'.

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